

Titus 2:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded.

Analysis

Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded—νέους (neous, young men) receive briefer instruction: παρακάλει σωφρονεῖν (parakalei sophronein, exhort to be self-controlled/sensible). One command where women received five (v. 4-5). Why? Verses 7-8 shift to Titus personally as the young man's model. Self-control (σωφροσύνη, sophrosynē) was a cardinal Greek virtue but needed Christian redefinition: not autonomous self-mastery but Spirit-empowered discipline.

Young men face unique temptations: sexual immorality, pride, rashness, aggression. Σωφρονεῖν encompasses sexual purity, humility, thoughtful decision-making, and controlled strength. Where young women needed instruction about relationships and domesticity, young men needed fundamental character formation—thinking rightly before acting rightly.

Historical Context

Young men in Greco-Roman culture faced pressure toward sexual promiscuity (prostitution, pederasty), honor-shame competition, and philosophical pretension. Christian young men needed counter-cultural self-control rooted in gospel truth, not Stoic self-sufficiency. The gymnasium, symposium, and marketplace provided constant temptation requiring sobering grace.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. Young men: in what areas do you lack self-control—sexual purity, anger management, financial discipline, time use?
2. How do you cultivate sober-mindedness in a culture promoting perpetual adolescence and instant gratification?
3. What older men are modeling self-control for you, and are you humble enough to receive their exhortation?

Interlinear Text

τοὺς	νεωτέρους	ὡσαύτως	παρακάλει	σωφρονεῖν
<small>G3588</small>	<small>Young men</small> <small>G3501</small>	<small>likewise</small> <small>G5615</small>	<small>exhort</small> <small>G3870</small>	<small>to be sober minded</small> <small>G4993</small>

Additional Cross-References

Ecclesiastes 12:1 (Parallel theme): Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;

1 Peter 5:5 (Parallel theme): Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

1 John 2:13 (Parallel theme): I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father.

Ecclesiastes 11:9 (Parallel theme): Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment.

Joel 2:28 (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

1 Timothy 5:1 (Parallel theme): Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren;

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